

	<p>IDEM Permit Guide: Land Application of Biosolids (sludge), Industrial Waste Products, and Pollutant Bearing Water</p> <p>www.IN.gov/idem/guides/permit/waste/landapplication.html</p>
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Who May Need a Permit

Facilities generating certain biodegradable sludges which also have value as a source of soil enrichment or plant nutrient may opt to avoid the tipping fees associated with disposing of such materials at a municipal solid waste landfill by instead land applying it on agricultural lands or at development sites, reclamation projects, or other sites. The US EPA and IDEM have published standards that must be met before Biosolids and Industrial Waste Products can be land applied. They require that pollutants and disease-causing organisms be reduced to acceptable levels prior to land application. Anyone wishing to apply these materials, after the standards have been met, must first receive a permit from IDEM's land application program.

IDEM issues two types of permits for land application of biosolids and industrial waste products: a Non Site-Specific Land Application Permit and a Site-Specific Land Application Permit. The Non Site-Specific land application permit authorizes the application of biosolids and industrial waste products on any agricultural land within given counties, but does not specify any particular sites that the permittee is limited to. The Site-Specific land application permit lists those sites on which a permittee may land apply biosolids or industrial waste products. IDEM also offers a hybrid permit that allows a combination of both Non Site-Specific and Site-Specific land application. Additionally, anyone wanting to market or distribute biosolids and industrial waste products must first receive a Marketing and Distribution Permit from the IDEM land application program.

The IDEM land application program also requires a Pollutant-Bearing Water Land Application Permit prior to any land application of pollutant-bearing water. Pollutant-bearing water (according to 327 IAC 6.1-2-46) means domestic wastewater, industrial process wastewater, or industrial storm water. Construction of Off-Site Storage Structures also are regulated by the land application program and may require either a notification or an approval to construct through submission of a construction permit application.

Some of the things an applicant must do to comply with IDEM's Land Application Permit Program include:

- < Applicants must provide notification, within 10 working days of application submittal, to all [adjacent landowners or their current occupants](#)
- < Provide a list of Potentially Affected Persons who may be affected by land

- application operations;
- < Provide analytical data that ensures biosolids, industrial waste products, and pollutant-bearing waters are within EPA and IDEM standards for eligibility of land application;
- < Ensure that the site of land application is suitable for land application;
- < Land application should not be done when the ground is saturated;
- < Land application also should not be done on ground that is frozen, unless pre-approval has been obtained from IDEM to land apply on frozen ground;
- < Obtain the proper permit prior to land application;
- < Land application must be conducted under the supervision of either a certified wastewater treatment plant operator or a person with at least one (1) year of experience in land application management practices and procedures;
- < There must be no discharges to the waters of the state from land application operation except under a valid NPDES permit
- < Submit monthly reports; and
- < Adhere to land application management practices described in 327 IAC 6.1

What to Expect

There is no fee associated with any IDEM land application permit. Potential permittees must submit a permit application for land application activities at least one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the proposed commencement of operation. While there is no specific statutory or regulatory established deadline for the review of applications for land application permits they are usually processed within 180 days. Permits must be renewed every 5 years. In addition, the construction of storage lagoons at land application sites does not require a Wastewater Facilities Construction Permit from IDEM [327 IAC 3-2-4(1-7)]; however, it will require prior approval from Land Application staff.

For Additional Information

Pre-application and/or post-application meetings with IDEM Land Application staff are encouraged to clarify any questions you may have regarding this application or the Land Application Regulations. If a meeting is desired or for further information, please contact Jeff Harmon at 317/232-8735, Jon Ware at 317/232-8734, or Brenda Stephanoff at 317/232-8734. To learn more about IDEM's Land Application Program or obtain applications for land application operations visit the IDEM Internet Website at http://www.IN.gov/idem/olq/special_topics/land_application/index.html.

Disclaimer

This permit guide is intended to provide background information which should be useful in planning for a particular project that may require an environmental permit. It does not substitute for consultation with the appropriate regulatory agency and/or the appropriate rules or statute.